

stump partially buried in leaf litter. It crawled with the deliberation of an oribatid mite, then leaped wildly when disturbed. Considering the saturated forest, the downpour (which was a daily occurrence), and the size and activity of the insect, it is remarkable that she was able to recognize the specimen as a choragine anthribid and to collect it. Considerable search for additional specimens was in vain.

REMARKS: I know of no other New World anthribid with so robust a body. In dorsal view the species looks almost round, whereas the other humped, mite-like genera all have a characteristic oval or pear-shaped outline when viewed from above. The type locality is actually in montane cloud forest rather than rain forest as labeled.



BOOK REVIEW

The biology of insects, by C. P. Friedlander. 1977. Pica Press, distributed by Universe Books, 381 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Cloth, 189p., \$12.50.

Although written for college undergraduates this book may serve also as a reference for high school biology teachers and students, as well as interested laypersons. Several chapters are very well done but others are somewhat superficial. Chapter 1, which covers major features of insect morphology and physiology "in relation to terrestrial life," is excellent in its coverage of the cuticle, respiration, excretion, and flight. Clear diagrams enhance the well-written text. In Chapter 2, on the variety of insects, the author aims "to express the salient features of the most important ones." In spite of the reasonably good and abundant diagrams the text is simply much too superficial. For example, of the 28 orders of insects mentioned, 4 are individually covered by 1 sentence, 5 orders receive 2 sentences each, 5 are covered by 3 sentences each and 4 by 4 sentences each. The complex topic of insect evolution (Chapter 3) is covered in less than 9 pages. On the other hand 40 pages are devoted to adaptive radiation (Chapter 4) and 16 of those pages consider "general adaptations in the Coleoptera." The discussion on beetles and their adaptation to aquatic life and their adaptations to burrowing is presented clearly both in text and in diagrams. Chapter 5 is supposed to cover behaviour and ecology but the actual attention given to ecology is minimal. In his description of Müllerian mimicry Friedlander seems to be at variance with most authors when he states that it "occurs when one or more aposomatic models are mimicked by species which are not necessarily as noxious as the models, or possibly not noxious at all." The accepted interpretation of Müllerian mimicry is that both model and mimic are unpalatable and that the pooling of numbers between mimic and model serves to reduce the losses of both species to predators. Chapter 6, on the economic importance of insects, is the longest chapter and probably the one of greatest value to the layman. Insect control with insecticides, genetic control, and biological control are discussed briefly but interestingly, and more complete coverage is given to insects of medical importance and to insect pests of agriculture and forests. This book is not sufficiently comprehensive for the serious student of entomology.